



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Southeastern Area
State & Private Forestry

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Report No. 82-3-33

Issued: 7/28/82

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF FOREST INSECT
AND DISEASE ACTIVITY, OUACHITA NATIONAL
FOREST, ARKANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Ouachita National Forest

STATES: Arkansas and Oklahoma

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 2,374,200 acres

DATE: 7/20-7/21, 1982

PERCENT COVERAGE: 100% of Caddo, Mena, Tiak Ranger Districts
25% of Choctaw, Cold Springs, Fourche, Jessieville, Kiamichi,
Oden, Poteau, Winona and Womble Districts

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 182

Crew: Charles W. Dull, FPM; Charlie Kerr, Caddo Ranger District

OBJECTIVES

To detect forest insect and disease activity within and adjacent to National Forest boundaries on the Ouachita National Forest. Special emphasis was placed on the detection of southern pine beetle activity in the pine forest type located along the southern portion of the Caddo and Mena Ranger Districts as well as on the Tiak Ranger District.

SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 38 southern pine beetle spots were detected during this aerial survey. Thirty two of these spots were found on the Caddo and Mena Districts while six were on the Tiak District. The attached maps show the location and the estimated number of red and fading trees observed at these locations. On the Caddo and Mena Districts southern pine beetle activity was observed in generally the same areas as found during the February 17, 1982 survey. However, the number of spots has increased. Primary areas of activity were centered around the Caney Creek Wilderness Area, the Sugar Creek Area, north of the Caney Creek Valley, and also near the Albert Pike Recreation Area. Scattered areas of red and fading trees were also observed along a new Forest Service road where suppression activities have been ongoing since last winter. In the Caney Creek Area spot break out in the areas of the previously detected spots is occurring. Activity in Caney Creek seems to have moved north into the Sugar Creek Area where several multiple tree spots were detected. Activity has increased most significantly in the Sugar Creek Area.

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CONCLUSIONS

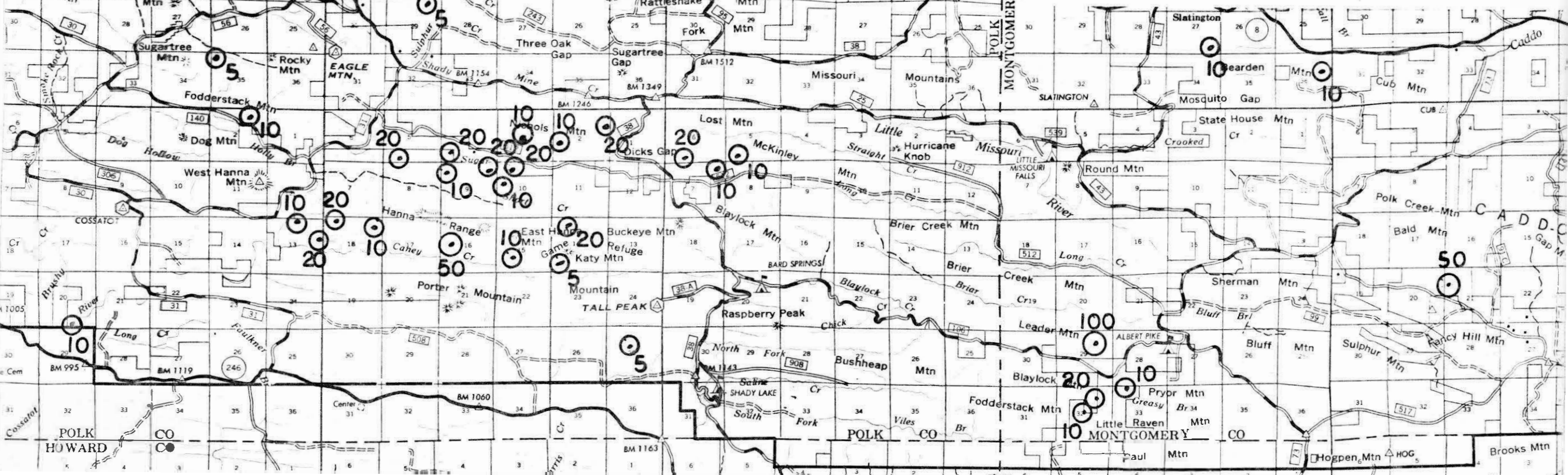
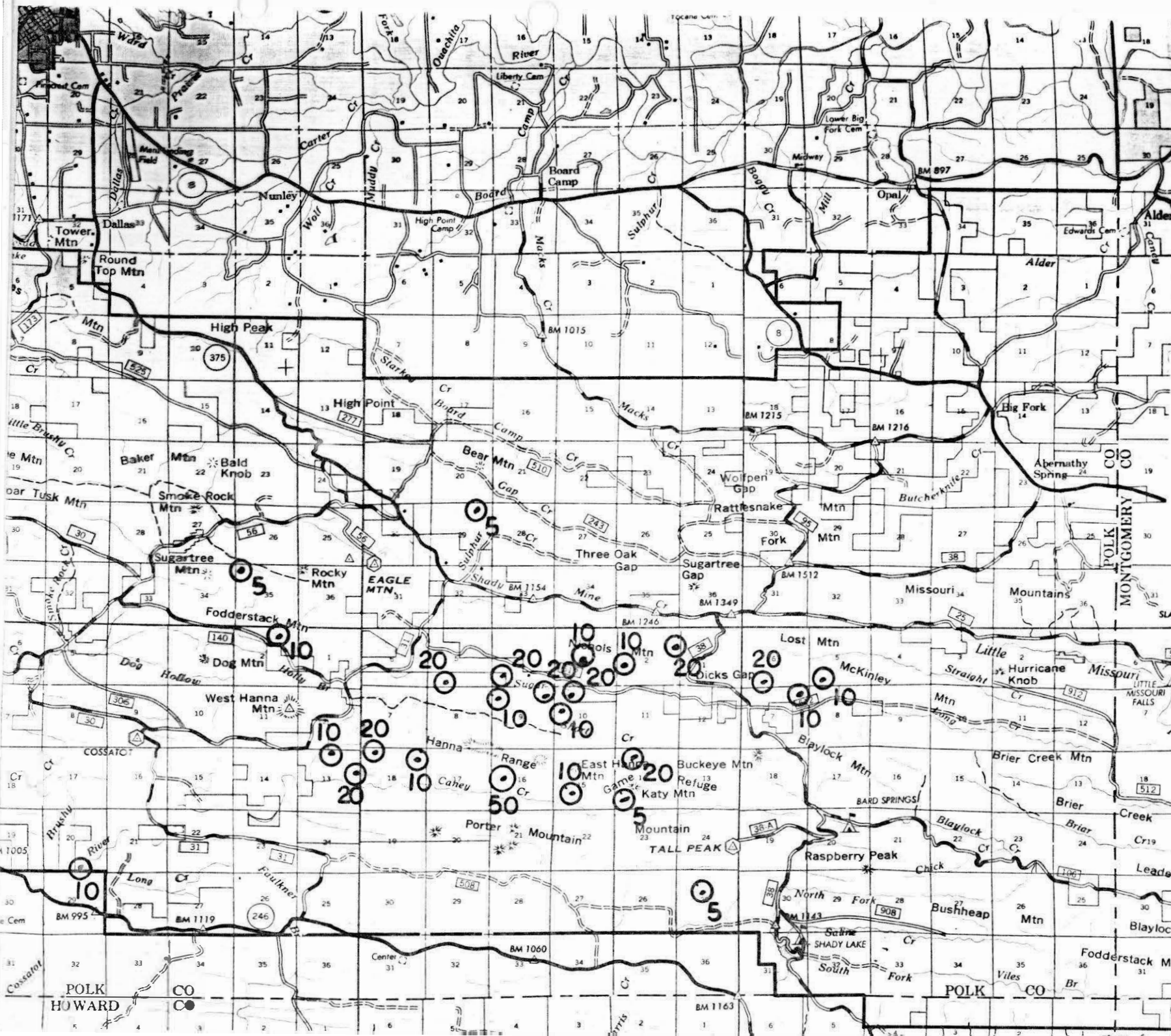
Southern pine beetle activity observed during this aerial detection survey has shown that activity has increased since last February. District personnel indicate that weather conditions have generally been very wet. However, weather for two weeks prior to the survey was very dry which could have influenced the recent activity. Most of the spots observed appear to have resulted from recent beetle activity. The potential for a southern pine beetle outbreak still exists on the Ouachita National Forest. National Forest personnel have been active in conducting field surveillance for southern pine beetle activity. Their suppression operations have been ongoing and should continue in areas where spots were detected. Activity on the Ouachita National Forest appears to now be at its highest level compared to the past five years. An additional aerial survey may be warranted if surveillance activities indicate that southern pine beetle populations continue to increase.

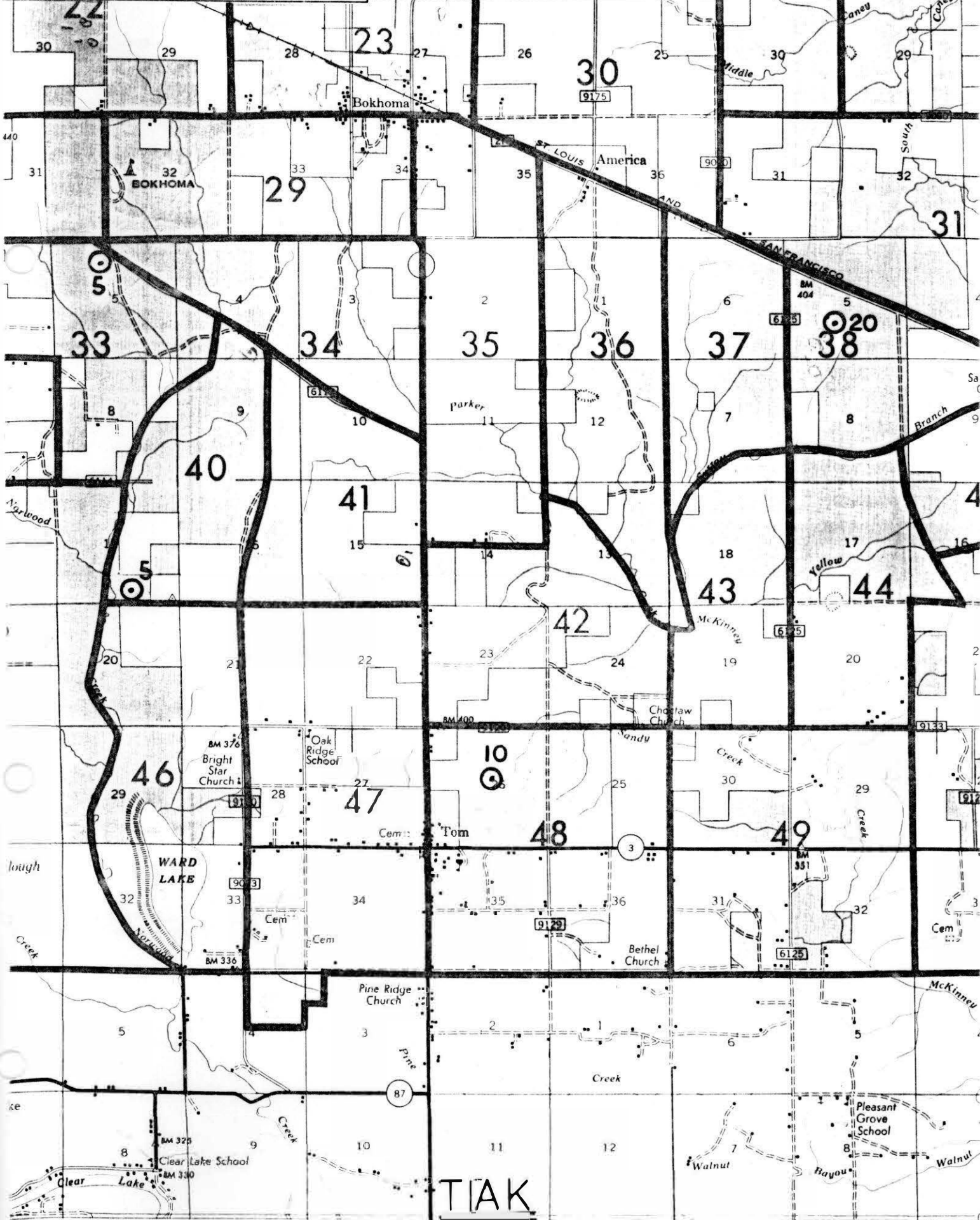
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